

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 04179 271136Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 NIC-01 /079 W

----- 002625

R 270705Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8621

INFO CINCEUR

CINCLANT

CINCPAC

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4179

CINCEUR, CINCLANT, CINCPAC, CINCUSAREUR, CINCUSNAVEUR,
SHAPE FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IN, UR, MV, XO

SUBJECT: FRG SOURCE ON GRECHKO VISIT TO INDIA

1. SUMMARY. THE FRG EMBASSY HERE HAS READ TO US
EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS FROM A REPORTING CABLE FROM THE
FRG EMBASSY IN NEW DELHI ON THE GRECHKO VISIT TO INDIA IN
FEBRUARY. ACCORDING TO FRG EMBOFF HERE WHO PASSED US THIS
INFORMATION (AND WHO SERVED IN NEW DELHI JUST PRIOR TO MOSCOW).

THE SOURCE FOR THE
INFORMATION COULD BE CLASSIFIED AS "REASONABLY RELIABLE."

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 04179 271136Z

ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, THE INDIANS FORESTALLED SOVIET

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN BASES ON INDIAN TERRITORY BY INDICATING IN ADVANCE THEY WOULD NOT DISCUSS SUCH A REQUEST. THE SOURCE ALSO SAID THAT THE INDIANS ASKED FOR RIGHTS TO BUILD SOVIET CORVETTES AND SAMs, AND AGREED TO INCREASE MUNITIONS PRODUCTION FOR THE WARSAW PACT. THE SOVIETS OFFERED TO DELIVER MIG 23s, AND EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT CONSTRUCTION OF SOVIET SUBS IN INDIA. OUR OWN EVALUATION OF THIS INFORMATION IS THAT SOME OF IT IS CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE MARK TO INDICATE THAT THE SOURCE DOES HAVE SOME INFORMATION ON SOVIET-INDIAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT DEALS. MUCH OF THE INFORMATION, HOWEVER, IS EITHER ALMOST CERTAINLY WRONG (THE WARSAW PACT BUYING MUNITIONS FROM INDIA) OR SUFFICIENTLY WIDE OF THE MARK TO INDICATE THAT THE SOURCE'S INFORMATION IS AT THE LEAST SOMEWHAT OUT OF DATE. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO OUR FRG SOURCE, THE INDIANS HAD LEARNED SOMETIME IN ADVANCE OF THE VISIT THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD WANT TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF BASES ON THE NICOBAR AND THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS. IN ORDER TO FORESTALL SUCH A SOVIET INITIATIVE, THE SOURCE CONTINUED, THE INDIANS THEMSELVES RAISED THE ISSUE BEFORE THE VISIT, INFORMING THE SOVIETS THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION. THE SOURCE ALSO SAID THAT THE INDIANS ARE AWARE OF, AND CONCERNED OVER, SOVIET INTEREST IN THE MALDIVES.

3. FROM WHAT THE SOURCE SAID, IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT DURING THE VISIT GRECHKO DID NOT MAKE ANY DIRECT REQUEST FOR INDIAN CONSIDERATION OF SOVIET BASES ON ITS TERRITORIES. THE SOURCE INDICATED THAT GRECHKO DID INDIRECTLY APPROACH THE QUESTION, HOWEVER, BY CITING THE CHINESE THREAT AS A REASON WHY CLOSE SOVIET-INDIAN COOPERATION MUST CONTINUE. THE SOURCE SAID THAT THE INDIANS QUASHED THIS IDEA BY REPLYING THAT THEY HAD NO INDICATION OF ANY ACTIVE CHINESE THREAT.

4. THE SOURCE SAID THAT THE INDIANS DID RAISE WITH THE SOVIETS THE POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING NANUCHKA-CLASS GUIDED-MISSILE PATROL BOATS IN INDIA. THE INDIANS ALSO DISCUSSED PRODUCTION OF AN UNSPECIFIED SOVIET SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE. THE SOURCE SAID THAT A WORKING GROUP
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 04179 271136Z

WAS ESTABLISHED TO EXAMINE THE QUESTION.

5. THE SOURCE SAID THAT DURING THE TALKS THE INDIANS AGREED TO INCREASE THE PRODUCTION OF MUNITIONS FOR THE WARSAW PACT TO 30 MILLION ROUNDS. THE INDIANS ASKED FOR HIGHER PRICES AS COMPENSATION. (SEE PARA 9 BELOW FOR COMMENT.)

6. THE SOURCE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS PRESSED THE INDIANS TO CONTINUE USE OF MIG AIRCRAFT. HE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO DELIVER MIG 23S TO THE INDIANS AND OFFERED TWO SUCH AIRCRAFT FOR TRIAL USE. THE SOURCE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS ALSO OFFERED THE INDIANS RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT MENTION WHAT TYPE. HE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS TOLD THE INDIANS THAT THE SOVIET NAVY IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOVIET SUBS IN INDIA. THE SOURCE INDICATED THAT THE INDIANS SHOWED SOME RESERVATION OVER THE USE OF SOVIET SUBS, HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THEIR ALLEGEDLY POOR SUITABILITY FOR USE IN TROPICAL CONDITIONS.

7. THE SOURCE, COMMENTING ON HIS INFORMATION, SAID THAT THE INDIANS WERE UNHAPPY ABOUT SOVIET PRESSURE DURING THE VISIT. HE CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT SOVIET TACTICS HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN FURTHER TYING INDIA TO USE OF SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

8. 8. COMMENT: IT SEEMS PROBABLE TO US THAT THE SOVIETS ARE ACTIVELY INTERESTED IN BASE RIGHTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. IT SEEMS EQUALLY PROBABLY THAT THE INDIANS WOULD DEEM IT UNWISE TO GRANT THEM SUCH BASES ON THEIR TERRITORY. ON THE NANUCHKA GUIDED MISSILE PATROL BOATS, WE HAVE OUR DOUBTS THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD ALLOW THE INDIANS TO BUILD THESE SOPHISTICATED NEW VESSELS IN INDIA -- OR EVEN SELL SUCH VESSELS TO THEM. THE INDIANS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE PAST IN ACQUIRING SA-6S AND SA-7S. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE INDIAN PRESSURE ON THE SOVIETS FOR SUCH WEAPONS HAS SLACKED OFF RECENTLY.

9. RE PARA 5: IT SEEMS TO US HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 04179 271136Z

WARSAW PACT OR THE SOVIET UNION WOULD DEPEND ON INDIAN SUPPLIES OF MUNITIONS. ON THE MIG 23S LOCALLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT INDIA HAS FINALLY AGREED TO PURCHASE THIS SOVIET-MADE AIRCRAFT AND THAT ONLY THE DELIVERY DATE MAY STILL BE IN QUESTION. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT AN AGREEMENT FOR DELIVERY OF IL 38S (THE RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT) HAS POSSIBLY ALREADY BEEN SIGNED.

10. THE INDIANS OF COURSE ALREADY HAVE EIGHT SOVIET F CLASS SUBMARINES. OUR INFORMATION IS THAT INDIANS HAVE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO BUILD THEIR OWN SUBMARINES, THOUGH NOTHING IS KNOWN ON WHETHER THEY WOULD USE SOVIET DESIGN OR TECHNOLOGY.
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS, MILITARY SALES, ARMS PRODUCTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW04179
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750107-0938
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750310/aaaaaimi.tel
Line Count: 169
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <09 JUN 2003 by izenbei0, 3.4.X1>; RELEASED <17 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <17 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG SOURCE ON GRECHKO VISIT TO INDIA
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IN, UR, MV, XO, (GRECHKO, ANDREY ANTONOVICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006